

December 19 - 1918.

My Darling Wife:

It seems finally as if we are getting settled. Our first patients were admitted yesterday and we are now again functioning as a hospital. There is still a tremendous amount of work to be done around the place before it is properly and sufficiently cleaned up, but the men are going at it with such good spirit that it won't be long before it is finished.

Our private quarters are very comfortable at present. The orderlies worked in them yesterday and got us mighty well fixed up. I can safely say that they are by far the most comfortable quarters I have been in since I have been in the Army. I have had several

wonderful night's sleep too, that
have made me feel more comfort-
able and natural. Last night I had
a wonderful hot bath and it
did seem good to get clean pyjamas
on and climb-in between clean
sheets. I slept like a top all
night, from seven thirty to
seven, and feel wonderfully
well today.

It is now just nine thirty
and I have all of my morning
reports in. I have not been
able to get downtown yet but
am going to try today, as I
have not seen a bit of the
town and would like to have
some sort of an idea what sort
of a place it is.

I saw a "Stars and Stripes"

of December 13th yesterday, and
it seemed mighty good for it is
the first paper I have seen for
two weeks. It told about the
American troops entering the
City of Coblenz and although
I was there to see it, it was
very interesting to read of it. Rose
and I are going to try to get down
town for a short time some time
today and see the sights.

I don't think it will be very
long now until we are permitted
to use cameras. Hitherto it has
been forbidden and I have not
even had mine unpacked but
I am going to get some pictures
as soon as possible. It will be
no trouble at all to have
them developed as it can be

done by the X-ray department.

It looks a little as if it might clear up today. We are becoming accustomed to rain again. It is almost a daily occurrence in the winter over here. We have had no snow at all and it doesn't seem very much like winter I must admit. It is the middle of December now and the weather is very comparable to the October weather we have at home. I have not worn any overcoat but very little. I hope we come home soon. I prefer the worst blizzards of Michigan to the mildest weather of France and Germany. It may not be very long now and God knows I hope so, for

I sure do want to see my dear family.

Well Honey dear I must close. I will write again tomorrow. I love you my sweet heart, with all my heart and soul. I love you. Give my love and kisses to Glad and my dear babies. With lots of love and kisses to you,
Al:

Arvid B Smith

Capt M.C.

Evac. Hosp^{al} 2. U.S.A.

Amer. E. F. France.